

COMMON INCIDENT COMMAND CENTER SITUATIONS

SEWAGE RELEASES

(March 2006)

Potential Contacts and/or Report Distribution: (BOLD = REQUIRED CONTACTS)

- If the sewage release is from a private residence (e.g., a septic tank or lagoon), then the Health Department has jurisdiction. During business hours, the Duty Officer can transfer the caller to the appropriate **County Health Department**. After hours, the Duty Officer can transfer the caller to the **DHSS** 24-hour hotline at (800) 392-0272.
- If the sewage release is from a POTW facility or sewer line, then the MDNR has jurisdiction. If the release is caused by a bypass due to heavy rainfall, then the incident report can be distributed as a complaint. No further notification is required.
- If the sewage release is from a malfunction at a POTW, a ruptured sewer line or bypass during dry conditions and a waterway is affected, immediately contact the **Regional Director** and the **MDC Fish Kill staff**
- E-mail (January 4, 2005 memo on Guidance for EER E-Mail Messages) if an EER Response is made.

Duty Officer/OSC Considerations:

- Determine if source is from a residence or POTW system
- For large releases (e.g., major sewer line ruptures, POTW failures) the EER will need to provide on-scene assistance if the Regional Director requests help. But typically, the Duty Officer will be able to refer a report of a sewage release to Regional Office water pollution staff for investigation.
- If an on-scene response is made, the OSC should measure water quality parameters in the area affected by the release and at a point upstream of the release to establish background conditions. The OSC should consult with the Duty Officer and consider collecting water samples for lab analysis to further document the release.
- If a fish kill has occurred, refer to the Common ICC Situations for Fish Kills